

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously canceled).

Claim 7-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously canceled).

Claim 11-14 (Canceled).

Claims 15-32 (Previously Canceled).

Claim 33 (Previously presented): A safety shield apparatus comprising:

a needle having a distal portion defining a longitudinal axis which is angularly displaced relative to a longitudinal axis defined by a proximal portion of the needle; and

a shield including at least one elongated part, the shield having a proximal end mounted with the proximal portion of the needle and a distal end mounted with a planar contact surface, the planar contact surface including a plurality of openings and a needle linear bearing that slidably engages the needle to facilitate movement of the needle relative to the shield, the shield being extensible between a retracted position and an extended position via fixed positioning of the planar contact surface relative to movement of the shield.

Claim 34 (Previously canceled).

Claim 35 (Original): A safety shield apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein the planar contact surface includes an anchor part.

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Claim 36 (Original): A safety shield apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein the distal end of the shield is hingedly attached to the planar contact surface.

Claim 37 (Original): A safety shield apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein the planar contact surface includes a pad for engagement with a subject.

Claim 38-41 (Canceled).